

REMARKS**Overview**

Claims 1-80 are pending in the present application. This response is submitted to place claims found allowable in the Office Action in allowable form. Entry and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Drawings

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the finding that the replacement drawing sheets have been found acceptable.

Specification

This response makes the minor changes to the Specification suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Objections

Claim 78 has been cancelled without prejudice, mooting the objection to it.

§ 112 Claim Rejections

The Examiner has entered several comments and objections to specific wording in certain claims. This response is submitted to revise the claims in a manner that overcomes each and every rejection under § 112. The claim revisions are made solely for the purposes of clarifying the claims in relation to the § 112 rejections. Specifically, the following changes have been made to overcome any § 112 rejection:

- a. Claim 1 has been amended to add the term "impeller". Therefore, it is submitted proper antecedent basis for that term exists in claim 7.
- b. The same change to Claim 1 resolves the antecedent basis issue of claim 16.

- c. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation (from claim 4) that the member is rotatable. Therefore, this concept is now clearly positively recited in the claim.
- d. Claim 50 has been revised to move the description of the "distribution void" to later in the claim to remedy any definiteness issue.
- e. The phrase "space" has been replaced with "distribution void" in claims 53, 61, 64, 72, 76, and 80 to resolve the antecedent basis issue.
- f. Independent claim 62 has been amended to transpose the language regarding the "distribution void" to later in the claim, to provide clarity and full support. Claim 64 has also been amended to substitute "space" with "distribution void" for antecedent basis purposes.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 18-30, 43, and 73 have been rejected as anticipated by Gould, U. S. Patent No. 6,003,534. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons expressed in Applicants' prior response, which is incorporated by reference herein. However, to advance prosecution of the present application, amendments have been made to the claims in a manner which is submitted to place them in allowable form, as described later in this response. It is therefore respectfully submitted that this rejection is moot in light of those claim amendments.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 15, 17, 46-49, 75 and 76 have been rejected as obvious based on Gould, U. S. Patent No. 6,003,534. This rejection is also respectfully traversed for the reasons expressed in Applicants' prior response, which is incorporated by reference herein. However, to advance prosecution of the present application, it is respectfully submitted the claims are in allowable form mooting the present obviousness rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the finding at Page 8, numbered paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Office Action that certain claims are now allowed (claims 54-60, 65, 71, 77, and 79) and certain other claims would be allowed if appropriately rewritten (6, 12-14, 44, 45, 74 and 78). The present response is intended to presents all claims in allowable form. The basis for allowance for the claims, in numerical order, as set forth below.

Independent Claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-30

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the material additional limitations of allowed dependent claim 12 and intervening dependent claims 4 and 5. Claim 1 is therefore respectfully submitted to be in allowable form.

Dependent Claims 4, 5 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice. The remaining dependent claims from claim 1, namely claims 2, 3, 6-11, and 13-30 are submitted to be allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim.

The dependency of claims 13 and 15 has been changed because claim 5 has been canceled.

Independent Claim 31 and its dependent claims 32-42

Independent Claim 31 and its dependent claims 32-42 have been previously canceled pursuant to a restriction requirement. They were canceled without prejudice to pursue them in a related application.

Independent Claim 43 and its dependent claims 44-49

Independent claim 43 has been amended to include the material limitations of allowed dependent claim 45. There are no intervening claims. Therefore, it is submitted claim 43 is allowable.

Dependent claim 45 has been cancelled without prejudice. Dependent claims 44 and 46-49 are submitted to be allowable as depending from allowable independent claim 43.

Independent Claim 50 and its dependent claims 51-53

Previously submitted independent claim 50 is a combination of allowable claim 6, its intervening claims 4 and 5, and independent claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 50 is allowable.

Dependent claims 51-53 are submitted to be allowable as depending from allowable independent claim 50.

Independent Claim 54 and its dependent claims 55-61

Independent claim 54 has been allowed, as have its depending claims 55-60.

Dependent claim 61 is submitted to be allowable as depending from allowed claims. As previously discussed, it has been amended to overcome any § 112 issue.

Independent Claim 62 and its dependent claims 63 and 64

Independent claim 62 and its dependent claims 63 and 64 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Independent Claim 65 and its dependent claims 66-68

Independent claim 65 and depending claims 66-68 have been allowed.

Independent Claim 69 and its dependent claims 70-72

Independent claim 69 and dependent claims 70 and 71 have been allowed.

Note that the clauses of claim 69 have been rearranged slightly to move the clause of element (e) to element (d), and move the clause in element (d) relating to the distribution void to element (e) for consistency with the other claims.

Dependent claim 72 is submitted to be allowable as depending from allowed claims. It has been amended to overcome its § 112 rejection.

Independent Claim 73 and its dependent claims 74-76

Independent claim 73 has been amended to add the material limitations of allowable claim 13, and intervening claims 4 and 5. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 73 is allowable. Claims 74 and 75 are dependent from claim 62 and are submitted to be allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim.

Dependent claim 76 has been amended to remedy any § 112 rejection and is submitted to be allowable as depending from an allowed claim.

Independent Claim 77 and its dependent claims 78-80

Independent Claim 77 has been allowed.

Dependent claim 78 has been cancelled without prejudice. Dependent claim 79 and 80 are submitted to be allowable as depending from allowed claim 77.

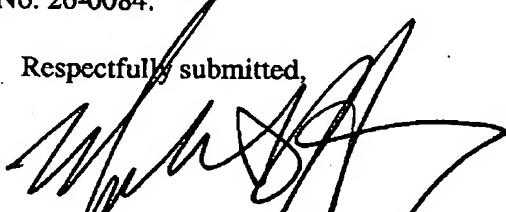
Dependent claim 80 has been revised to remedy the § 112 rejection and is submitted to be allowable as depending from an allowed claim.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted all matters raised in the Office Action have been addressed and remedied and that the application is in form for allowance. Favorable actions is respectfully requested.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Respectfully submitted,



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